

# Recordings, Captured Maps Show Soviet Involvement at Syria Front

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**JERUSALEM**—Tape recordings and an analysis of reports of Israeli soldiers who overheard broadcasts in Russian at the end of the Middle East war show extensive participation by Soviet personnel far forward in Syrian battlefield operations.

The evidence is reinforced by documents captured by the Israelis at El Quneitra, the Syrian operational headquarters in the last battle for the ridges and high ground dominating Upper Galilee.

The include two maps apparently used by Soviet military advisers to train Syrian artillery units, and a notebook containing pictures of about 60 Russian technicians and their families in the area.

On the afternoon of Friday, June 9, I spoke with two Israeli groups that had heard the radio transmissions in Russian. One group was the communications center of a forward divisional command, by that time a few yards across the border, and the other was a military police detail whose jeep was, by then half a mile inside Syrian territory.

A police sergeant said that what he had been hearing on his communications radio sounded like a series of code words and numbers. His impression was confirmed by seven Israeli radio operators, who agreed that what they heard were numbers, single words, occasional full sentences and curses.

The code words and numbers, Israeli analysts think, may have been directions for the positioning of artillery fire.

The Russian radio operators' chatter included such sentences

as "The Jews are coming" and "The Jews are attacking," indicating that the operators were far enough forward to see what was happening in the battle.

One overheard sentence, suggesting that the Russians were accustomed to refer to their Syrian allies in less than complimentary terms, was: "The blacks are running."

The maps captured at El Quneitra were standard con-

topical maps, published in February, 1947. They were overprinted with all names rendered in both Arabic and Russian.

The basic map was then overprinted a second time, in French and English. It thus contained such an abundance of information on military positions, command lines, code names and signal and firing instructions as almost to obliterate what was below.



**MULTI-LANGUAGE MAP**—Locations overprinted in Arabic and Russian appear on map captured by Israelis.